

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) on Friday participated in an event creating a formal partnership between the Pinnacles National Monument and Parque Nacional Quebrada del Condorito in Argentina. The sister parks share similar resources, including populations of endangered condors.

Rep. Farr was joined by National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis, Argentina's National Administration for Parks President Patricia Gandini and Pinnacles National Monument Superintendent Eric Brunneman at the ceremony.

"I've always been a supporter of the condor rehabilitation efforts at Pinnacles, and I think this new partnership is another great move for their world class effort," Rep. Farr said. "I think this is another feather in the Pinnacles cap and will hopefully move us even closer to establishing Pinnacles as a National Park, a designation it rightfully deserves."

The partnership creating the "sister park" agreement will promote the information sharing and research efforts on their common biological and geological features, especially those pertaining to condor recovery programs. Both parks are heavily involved with reintroducing majestic but endangered condors to the wild.

Pinnacles National Monument is home to 22 of just 180 free-flying California condors. Parque Nacional Quebrada del Condorito is leading the conservation effort for the Andean condor.

The parks will also coordinate on projects concerning habitat preservation, threatened species, education programs and community involvement. The National Park Service and Argentina's National Administration for Parks have had an official Memorandum of Understanding since 1997, but this is the first sister park partnership to form under that agreement.

High resolution photos of the ceremony are available. E-mail Tom Mentzer at tom.mentzer@mail.house.gov.

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